

Message Text

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H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-20 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 AID-20 OPR-02

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TO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMCONSUL CURACAO

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE BY POUCH

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PINS, PINT, BB

SUBJ: GRENADA SITUATION REPORT NO. 1

SUMMARY: THE ASSOCIATED STATE OF GRENADA IS SCHEDULED TO
BECOME INDEPENDENT ON FEBRUARY 7, 1974. FOR THE LAST
SEVERAL WEEKS THERE HAVE BEEN SPORADIC STRIKES AND DEMON-
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STRATIONS ON GRENADA DIRECTED AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT.

BECAUSE OF THESE INCIDENTS SOME OF THE PUBLIC SERVICES SUCH AS ELECTRICITY AND WATER HAVE BEEN INTERRUPTED FROM TIME TO TIME AND SEVERAL SHOPS AND COMMERCIAL ENTERPRISES HAVE BEEN CLOSED DOWN. SHIPMENTS TO GRENADA HAVE ALSO BEEN IRREGULAR DUE TO WORK STOPPAGES IN THE PORT. IN THE DEMONSTRATIONS TO DATE, THERE HAVE BEEN INJURIES TO THE DEMONSTRATORS AND AT LEAST ONE DEATH ON JANUARY 21. WE HAVE NO REPORTS OF ANY AMERICAN BEING INJURED AS A RESULT OF THESE DEMONSTRATIONS. THEY APPEAR ONLY TO INVOLVE GRENADIANS. NONETHELESS, THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE IS ADVISING AMERICAN TOURISTS PLANNING TO VISIT THE ISLAND TO CONSIDER POSTPONING THEIR TRAVEL UNTIL THE UNREST SUBSIDES. THE FOLLOWING IS A BRIEF CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS LEADING UP TO THE CURRENT DISTURBANCES. END SUMMARY.

-FEBRUARY 28, 1972 -- PREMIER ERIC GAIRY'S GRENADA UNITED LABOR PARTY (GULP) WON 13 OF THE 15 HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY SEATS IN THE GENERAL ELECTION. THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAD INDICATED TO PREMIER GAIRY PRIOR TO ELECTION THAT

IF HE MADE INDEPENDENCE A MAJOR PLANK IN HIS ELECTION CAMPAIGN, AND IF HIS PARTY WON BY A SIZEABLE MARGIN, THE BRITISH WOULD CONSIDER THIS A POPULAR MANDATE FOR INDEPENDENCE. HAVING WON HIS MANDATE PREMIER GAIRY BEGAN NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE BRITISH FOR INDEPENDENCE.

-JULY 30, 1973 -- THE BRITISH FOREIGN OFFICE ANNOUNCED THAT HMG HAD ACCEPTED FEBRUARY 7, 1974 AS THE DATE FOR GRENADA INDEPENDENCE. DURING THE SUMMER A BLACK RACIAL ORGANIZATION, THE NEW JEWEL MOVEMENT (NJM), PUBLISHED A PROGRAM WHICH INCLUDED A DEMAND FOR PREMIER GAIRY'S RESIGNATION BY NOVEMBER 17.

-NOVEMBER 18, 1973 -- SIX LEADERS OF THE NEW JEWEL MOVEMENT WERE ARRESTED AND BADLY BEATEN BY THE PREMIER'S SECRET POLICE. THIS INCIDENT WAS THE CATALYST WHICH UNITED THE OPPOSITION INTO AN ANTIGOVERNMENT COALITION - EVENTUALLY CALLED THE COMMITTEE OF 22. THE COMMITTEE OF 22 INCLUDED THE SEAMAN AND WATER FRONT WORKERS UNION, TECHNICAL AND ALLIED WORKERS UNION, THE CATHOLIC CHURCH, THE NJM, THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CIVIL SERVICE ASSOCIATION, THE OPPOSITION PARTY, AND SEVERAL CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS THE LION'S CLUB. THE COMMITTEE OF 22 DEMANDED THAT GAIRY DISBAND HIS SECRET POLICE AND THAT AN INQUIRY BE HELD INTO THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE NOV. 18 ARREST OF THE SIX NJM MEMBERS. ELEMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE ALSO WANTED GUARANTEES OF CIVIL LIBERTIES WRITTEN INTO THE CONSTITUTION BEFORE INDEPENDENCE. TO PUT TEETH INTO THEIR DEMANDS THE COMMITTEE OF 22 CALLED A

GENERAL STRIKE FOR NOVEMBER 28.

DECEMBER 1 -- GENERAL STRIKE ENDS AS PREMIER GAIRY AGREES TO INVESTIGATE THE CHARGES OF POLICE BRUTALITY AND IMPLIES OTHER STEPS WILL BE TAKEN.

DECEMBER 11 -- HOUSE OF COMMONS APPROVAL FOR GRENADA'S INDEPENDENCE.

DECEMBER 17 -- HOUSE OF LORDS APPROVAL FOR GRENADA'S INDEPENDENCE.

DECEMBER 18 -- QUEEN ELIZABETH THE SECOND SIGNS GRENADA'S INDEPENDENCE ORDER.

DECEMBER 23 -- ALTHOUGH PREMIER GAIRY ESTABLISHES A COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO THE CHARGES OF POLICE BRUTALITY NO ACTION IS TAKEN TO CURTAIL THE POWERS OF THE SECRET POLICE (WHO ARE RESPONSIBLE ONLY TO PREMIER GAIRY). THE COMMITTEE OF 22 ISSUES FURTHER DEMANDS AND THREATENS A GENERAL STRIKE IF DEMANDS ARE NOT MET. INITIAL DEMANDS INCLUDED THE RESIGNATION OF PREMIER GAIRY, THE DISBANDING OF THE SECRET POLICE AND THE ARREST AND PROSECUTION OF THE POLICE INVOLVED IN THE NOVEMBER 18 BEATING, PLUS

MEASURES GUARANTEEING CIVIL LIBERTIES. FOUR DAYS LATER THE COMMITTEE OF 22 DROPPED THEIR DEMANDS FOR GAIRY'S RESIGNATION, BUT STATED THEY WOULD RESUME THE GENERAL STRIKE ON JANUARY 1 IF THE SECRET POLICE WERE NOT DISBANDED.

-JANUARY 3 -- THE GENERAL STRIKE IS JOINED BY STEVEDORES IN BARBADOS AND TRINIDAD WHO REFUSE TO LOAD SHIPS BOUND FOR GRENADA. THE TRINIDAD OILFIELD WORKERS ANNOUNCED A BOYCOTT OF PETROLEUM SUPPLIES FOR GRENADA.

-JANUARY 14 -- GRENADA'S GOVERNOR, DAME HILDA BYNOE, RE-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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To: BRIDGETOWN
Type: TE
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